

Message Text

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R 020746Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1754

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8736

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: REHABILITATED AND TRANSFERRED FIGURES AT ARMY DAY

REF: HONG KONG 8685

SUMMARY. SEVERAL FOLLOWERS OF OLD MARSHAL HO LUNG WERE AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT ARMY DAY, APPEARING IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS. TWO INDIVIDUALS, FORMERLY WITH PROVINCIAL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN RESPONSIBILITIES, APPEAR TO HAVE RELINQUISHED CIVILIAN POSITIONS IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING MILITARY CAREERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO THE REAPPEARANCE OF FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF YANG CHENG-WU AND FORMER AIR FORCE POLITICAL COMMISSAAR YU LI-CHIN, FIVE PEOPLE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH MARSHAL HO LUNG SURFACED AT ARMY DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1967 (REFTEL). THIS CONTINUES A TREND IN THE REHABILITATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF HO LUNG'S FIRST FIELD ARMY. THE REHABILITATED
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INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED ONE FORMER CIVILIAN AND FOUR FORMER MILITARY

OFFICIALS. THEIR NAMES AND POSITIONS AT TIME OF PURGE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A. WANG SHANG-JUNG, FORMER DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS IN THE GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS;
- B. JAO CHENG-HSI, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT;
- C. LI CHU-KUEI; FORMER POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE CENTRAL LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT;
- D. HUANG HSIN-TING, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE CHENG TU MILITARY REGION;
- E. LU CHENG - TSAO, FORMER MINISTER OF RAILWAYS.

2. ALL WERE LISTED AT THE JULY 31 ARMY DAY RECEPTION WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL TITLE. THE FATE OF THEIR FORMER MENTOR, HO LUNG, REMAINS UNKNOWN. ANOTHER REHABILITATED MILITARY FIGURE, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE PLA ARTILLERY CORPS WU KO-HUA, SERVED IN THE FOURTH FIELD ARMY UNDER LIN PIAO. WU, HOWEVER, WAS PURGED AT A TIME WHEN LIN'S STAR WAS IN THE ASCENDENT.

3. LISTING OF HU WEI AND LIU HSIEN-CHUAN AMONG MILITARY GROUPINGS MAY INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE RELINQUISHED THEIR CIVILIAN POSITIONS IN THE PROVINCES IN FAVOR OF THEIR MILITARY CAREERS (HONG KONG 7501). HU'S TRANSFER FROM SHENSI, WHERE HE WAS A PARTY SECRETARY, TO PEKING COINCIDED WITH THE PERIOD OF REGIONAL MILITARY SHIFTS. HE IS CURRENTLY UNDER HEAVY POSTER ATTACK IN HIS FORMER BAILIWICK OF SHENSI (PEKING 1189). LIU HSIEN-CHUAN WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE RELINQUISHED HIS POSITION AS BOSS OF TSINGHAI FOR A MILITARY ROLE, ALTHOUGH NO ONE ELSE IS CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED AS TSINGHAI CHIEF. IN MAY, HE APPARENTLY LEFT HIS CIVILIAN CULTURAL GROUP POST IN PEKING WHEN YU HUI-YUNG AND WANG MAN-TIEN WERE NEWLY REPORTED AS DEPUTY HEADS OF THE GROUP (HONG KONG 6097). LIU'S POSITIONING ON THE ATTENDANCE LIST SUGGESTS HE MAY BE RAILWAY CORPS COMMANDER.

4. COMMENT. AT PRESENT, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RETURN OF THESE CASUALTIES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION REMAINS OBSCURE. WE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE ASSIGNED OFFICIAL POSITIONS. THE REHABILITATION OF PREVIOUSLY PURGED PLA FIGURES MAY OFFER SOME SOLACE TO CURRENTLY ANXIOUS MILITARY

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LEADERS CONCERNED OVER HOW THE ATTACK AGAINST LIN PIAO WILL AFFECT THEIR POSITION.

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